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THE
P A P I S T S

Bloody OATH of Secrecy,

AND

B. R. Gent.

Litany of Intercession^K

For carrying on this Present PLOT.

WITH THE

Manner of taking the OATH upon their
Entering into any Grand Conspiracy
against the

P R O T E S T A N T S.

To which are added,

Some Informations as to the Murder of
Sir Edmundbury Godfrey.

*Written in the Year 1680, and now proper to be in
the Hands of all P R O T E S T A N T S.*

S A L I S B U R Y:

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939

THE PAPIST

Religious and Political

AND

History of Intercourse

For carrying on the Roman Plot.

46

WITH THE

Manner of taking Oaths upon their
Entering into any Grand Conspiracy
against the

PROTESTANTS

to which are added

Some Informations as to the History of
the Roman Catholic Conspiracy

Written in the Year 1680, and now first printed
the History of all PROTESTANTS



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T H E
P R E F A C E.

AT this Time we cannot do too much to awaken People out of the Lethargy they seem sunk into, and shew them the Persons endeavouring to draw their Affections from the most deserving Object upon themselves, are their greatest Enemies: And that the Designs, they are persuaded to engage in, must (if successful) terminate in the Destruction of their Native Country. Roused by this Means Men may perhaps be fired with a wholesome Spirit of Resentment, and with an uncommon Generosity make their Country's Cause their own. Then it may reasonably be hoped the destined Destruction will fall, where in Justice it ought to fall, upon the Heads of the would-be Destroyers.

The Rebellion broke out in the Northern Parts of this Kingdom is the Effect of papistical Cabals, joined to the sour, violent Passions of malevolent disaffected Protestants, as they call themselves, amongst us. Now the Design and End of this Rebellion can be nothing less than to bring about a Change of Government, which must be a total Subversion of English Liberty. For this Purpose we see the Pretender's eldest Son invited over; the Father's once tried Cou-
A rage

rage being deemed insufficient for so momentous a Task, as the countenancing and heading such a numerous Body of Trusty Friends. And he, poor Man! might think it too much (now grown wiser than he was in the Year 1715) to hazard his precious Life a second time for the Crown of these Realms. Under this bold, and enterprizing Youth, mighty Achievements are to be performed, if they fall not short of Expectation. However this may be, his Presence animates them for the present: And the Promises of Foreign Assistance, besides Descents upon different Places of our Coasts for to divide our Strength, keep their rebellious Spirits alert.

Our villainous Neighbours, the French (a People without Honour, without Faith) are their secret Abettors. These are never wanting in their Endeavours to forward our Destruction. And the more so, as the British Nation has always most vigorously opposed their Attempts after Universal Monarchy. Their present Counsels seem full of Rage and Fury, occasioned by the ever-memorable Disappointment their Schemes have met with in the Election of an Emperor; and the Loss of Cape-Breton. It is on their Account we have such mighty Fleets at Sea. And it is to be hoped our Sea-Officers will now discharge their Trust, by keeping such a sharp and honest Look-out, as may put it out of their Power to compass our Land, and invade us; or even give any considerable Assistance in Money, Arms, Ammunition, or Soldiers, to our unnatural Rebels.

Should

Should an Invasion happen, the Papists and Disaffected in England (we may be sure) will soon shew themselves, though now quiet. So favourable an Opportunity will not be slipt to draw out their secreted consecrated Weapons in Favour of the Pretender, and sheath them in our Bowels. It is natural enough for the Papists to deal thus by us, it is for their Interest, the Dictates of their bloody Religion. And they are spirited up by the Agents of Hell, who know (could the Pretender be seated over us our King and Governor) they should have the Devil himself among them to establish their Religion, and extirpate Protestantism, Root and Branch.

Ever since the Abdication of their Minion and Tool, King James II, they have owed us an irreconcilable Grudge, which we must atone for, if Atonement can be made: And that cannot be done, without paying the immense Debts the pretended Grandfather, and Father have contracted, to the Ruin of our Country; and becoming a Province to France. Slavery surely can in no Shape be eligible to Englishmen. Indeed, an Englishman and a Slave is to me a Paradox no ways reconcileable. For Life without Liberty is scarce worth preserving. Under our gracious Sovereign KING GEORGE we are sure of every thing, that is dear and valuable to a Free-People. Our Civil and Religious Rights and Liberties are secured to us: Our Properties are our own, and worth opposing all our Enemies, both foreign and domestick, in the Preservation of. On this Ac-

count we must have our Eyes every where, behind as well as before Us: For our domestick Foes are such sculking Wretches, that they creep (as they have always done) into Holes, and Corners, under the Covert of Darknes, to draw their Schemes, and contrive the Means of putting their hellish Plots in Execution. If suspected and accused of these Doings, with a brazen Effrontery they deny them, and salve their Consciences with some ridiculous Reservation.

For several Centuries it has been the stablised Practice of the Church of Rome to teach her Votaries the useful Art of Mental-Reservation: that weak Princes may be lull'd asleep in a false Security, and Countries overwhelmed, while they believe no Danger nigh enough to destroy them. This Art, added to Secrecy, does all their Work. To Secrecy are all, employed by her, in the most solemn Manner sworn, as the following Piece will clearly manifest.

The Histories of England tell us, that about the Year 1675, a Conspiracy was secretly entered into by the Papists to destroy King Charles II, that the Duke of York, a professed, bigotted Papist, might be the sooner advanced to the Throne, and their Religion be the sooner introduced, and established once again in England. To bind the Conspirators the closer together, a most horrid Oath was invented and taken. Our Author acknowledges himself to have been one of them; and tells us his Ghostly Father satisfied him, that All engaged bound themselves by this Oath, to carry on the Design of murdering the King without Fear of Discovery; and that he himself

himself took it for the same Purpose. We know that for this very Plot, a great many, and among the rest, the Duke's Secretary Coleman, were executed, declaring to the very last their Ignorance of any such Design, and pleading their Innocence: Thus you may see what Credit is to be given them: And for us now to think the Generality of the Papists among us are, or were kept in Darknes concerning this Rebellion and intended Invasions, is to shew ourselves credulous Fools, and give them Occasion to laugh at us for believing them ignorant and innocent because they deny the Charge. Knowing what was to be done, several Papists have withdrawn, thinking thereby to avoid the Suspicion of having a Hand in the accursed Work. But, if we consider, they may do more Mischief where they are, than if they had staid at home.

Popery is the same now, as in King Charles's Days, unless refined in it's devilish Politicks. It's Machinations are as subtle, and as deeply contrived: Wherefore we cannot be too cautious how we trust our Secrets with them, for under the Cloak of Faith and Friendship will they destroy. We are certified, the Protestants abroad, in Popish Countries are debarred all Religious Liberty. But with us, these Men have a Privilege of exercising their Religion, not indeed allowed by our Laws; but they have been connived at; so that on this Score they have no Reason to complain. They have never been dragooned, nor their Properties violently taken from them; their Estates they enjoy at reasonable Rates. They must be then
concluded

concluded a base ungrateful Set of People to excite Disturbances, and endeavour the Destruction of our Present Royal Family, by whose Clemency they live at large as they do. Their Behaviour on all such Occasions, as the present, has ever been nefarious, so that 'tis surprizing they have not been put upon the same Footing as Protestants are abroad; and that they might very justly have been without the Clamour of Persecution. As they abuse the Liberty indulged them; they ought, in regard to the Common Good, to have their Hands tied closer, that nothing dangerous may for future Generations be apprehended from them. And surely, some Method may be found to effect this, tho' transcribed from their foreign Fraternities: What is done to supposed Enemies in other Countries as good and wholesome, may be done here to open professed Enemies as most salutary, and most conducive to the general Conservation of the Nation.

*This Piece, the Bloody Oath, was no sooner published, but it was caught up with all imaginable Eagerness by the Popish Faction to be destroyed, so that few escaped their Hands. How this Copy escaped, it matters not, it was almost as strange, as the Way our Author came by a Copy of the Oath. As it is fallen into my Hands, I cannot make my Countrymen and Fellow Protestants at this Time, a more substantial Present, than the printing it for their Use, to open their Eyes, and shew them what they have to trust to from these publick Incendiaries, who are closely carrying on such
dreadful*

dreadful Means of Destruction; and to let them see their most solemn Asseverations are not to be regarded: Treachery and Cruelty lurk under the Cloak of Innocency, and the cloven Foot appears from under the most sanctified Disguise.

When this Piece was going to be published, to take off all Imputation of it's being forged by Enemies, and thrown upon the Papists, Application was made to the House of Commons the 16th Day of December (the Parliament then sitting) for Liberty to print and publish the same: In Compliance with this Request, an Order of the House was the same Day passed, and Leave given for the Publication hereof. Should this Trifle in the least contribute to the settling Loyal Principles in the Hearts of my Countrymen, and provoke to a greater Detestation to Popery than they may already entertain, I shall rejoice: For then there may be still greater Room to hope, they will add Vigour to their Resolutions, and to the utmost of their united Strength, maintain KING GEORGE upon the Throne, whose undoubted Right it is to be our KING; and also preserve the whole ROYAL FAMILY, from whom, as Protestants, we expect for ourselves, and our Posterity, all the Happiness these Nations are, or may be, capable of enjoying.

His present Majesty deserves the Affections of all his Subjects: No Deviation from the established Laws of the Kingdom is chargeable upon him; those Laws by which our Liberty
and

and Properties are eminently secured; so that the rebellious Attempts to make his Reign uneasy, cannot but be the vile Fruits of the blackest Ingratitude: Here is no Redress of Grievances to be pleaded; no just Cause to be assigned for running to Arms, to the unspeakable Detriment of so many Parts of the Kingdom. Nothing is more certain, than that the Foundation of this detestable Scheme of ' Mischief and Cruelty was laid in the Dark, and ' sealed up with many execrable Oaths, the ' great Engines to bind up the Consciences as ' well as Tongues of Men from Discovery.' It was assuredly set on Foot by the vigilant and industrious Creatures and Emissaries of France, of Spain, and Rome; who are sent abroad ' continually with full Commission, per fas ' & nefas, to make way for the Re-establishment of the Romish Religion, in all Parts ' where it hath been suppressed: And the venemous Infusions of Monks and Friars, who ' have been so long unheeded amongst us, have ' sunk so deep in the Minds of ignorant and ' superstitious People, as made them ready for ' a Change: The Grandees among them have ' plotted and contrived, what the meaner Sort ' have undertaken to rise up for and execute.' In such Times of Confusion, secret Enemies lay concealed under the Name of Friends. — Counsels are betrayed, and Measures obstructed: 'Tis to be wished at this Juncture we may not have such among us: If we have, tis farther to be wished, they may be discovered, and meet with Punishments adequate to their Treachery.

THE
INFORMATION
OF
R. B. Gent.

Containing the Oath of Secrecy, &c.

AFTER the antient Piety, Zeal, and Strictness of Life, exemplary in the Primitive Christians, had in a Measure put the *Dominion* of this World, and the *Keys* of the next, into the Hands of the *Clergy*; Care of gaining Souls became (in a few Centuries) obsoleted: The former illustrious Times of Virtue vanished, and a gloomy Night of Ignorance soon overspread the *Universe*. The *Clergy* (the Authors of this Unhappiness) finding their Religion and Greatness must be maintained by Power and Policy; and conscious to themselves, that their Lives and Doctrine held no good Correspondence with the Purity and Poverty of their Predecessors, took a Course (because they had little left of their Own) to trade with the *Piety* of the Ages past, and prop up their own Ignorance and Sloth by that Means. To work they go; they make Gods of the deceased Progenitors of Christianity, and inshrine their *rotten Bones*, or *those of Others*, in Cases of Gold and Silver. The next Thing was to persuade, or compel, the People to *adore* them. In

this erecting a new Order of Demi-Gods, they imitated the *Pagans* in their Wickedness, but not in their Virtue or Valour; and clapt the Festivals of these new *Pa-Gods* into the Calender in Places of the old Holydays of *Saturn*, *Minerva*, *Bacchus*, &c. This Project answered Expectation; they grew greater, but not better. The Miracles pretendedly wrought at those Shrines, and multitude of Ceremonies, dazzled the Vulgar, supported the Reputation, and supplied the Defect of the Clergy. The glorious Lives, Wonders, and Martyrdoms, of the Antients, were made into *Mantles* to hide the Ignorance, Lust, and Avarice, of worthless *Impostors*; and Laws made every where, were made to restrain Men from peeping into the *Ark* of the *Church*. And to strip Princes privily of their Power, and to draw their Subjects to other Dependencies, numerous *Orders* and *Societies* are conjured up (as though the *Laitie* had not groaned enough under the *Seculars*) to erect a *Kingdom*, in every Kingdom, for the *Pope*, and to supply him in every Corner with a *Villain Spiritual* to stab or poison what Potentates he pleases.

Things thus jogged on till the Days of our Grand-Fathers, when in *England* the *Pope* and his *Clergy* were secluded; and it was made Death for any *Romish-Priest* to enter the Realm: Yet since, they have not only come hither, but by help of *Factors* and *Proselytes* acquired great *Estates* in these Kingdoms, and arrived to a Height of no less Confidence, than of *ruling the Rost*, destroying us all, and introducing *Popery*. This is as clear as Noon-day by many Testimonies; among which this *Oath* following is a most notorious Evidence. On this I shall make some Remarks.

The Oath of Secrecy given by William Rushton, to me R. B. the Second of February, 1676-7.

✠ *In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. AMEN.*

I R. B. being in the Presence of Almighty God, the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, the blessed Michael the Arch-Angel, the blessed St John Baptist, the Holy Apostles St Peter and St Paul, and all the Saints in Heaven, and to You my Ghostly Father, do declare, and in my Heart believe, the Pope, Christ's Vicar-General, to be the true and only Head of Christ's Church here on Earth; and that by Virtue of the Keys of binding and loosing given his Holiness by our Saviour Christ, He hath Power to depose All Heretical Kings and Princes, and cause them to be killed. Therefore to the utmost of my Power I will defend this Doctrine, and his Holiness's Rights against all Usurpers whatever; especially against the now pretended King of England, in Regard that he hath broke his Vows with his Holiness's Agents beyond Seas, and not performed his Promises in bringing into England, the holy Roman Catholick Religion. I do renounce, and disown any Allegiance as due to the said pretended King of England, or Obedience to any of his inferior Officers and Magistrates; but do believe the Protestant Doctrine to be heretical and damnable, and that All are damned which do not forsake the same; and to the best of my Power will help his Holiness's Agents here in England, to extirpate and root out the said Protestant Doctrine, and to destroy the said pretended King of England, and All such of his Subjects as will not adhere to the Holy See of Rome, and the Religion there professed. I farther do promise and declare, that I

will keep secret and private, and not divulge directly, or indirectly, by Word, Writing, or Circumstance, whatever shall be proposed, given in Charge, or discovered to me, by You, my Ghostly Father, or any other engaged in the promoting of this pious and holy Design; and that I will be active, and not desist from the carrying of it on: And that no Hopes of Rewards, Threats, or Punishments, shall make me discover the rest concerned in so pious a Work: And if discovered, shall never confess any Accessaries with myself concerned in this Design. All which I do swear by the blessed Trinity, and by the blessed Sacrament, which I now purpose to receive, to perform, and on my Part to keep inviolable: And do call all the Angels and Saints in Heaven to witness my real Intention to keep this Oath.——In Testimony whereof I do receive this most holy and blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist.

It is manifest, that the *Grandeas* of the *Roman Church* make no more Account of Religion, than the Profit and Convenience it brings along with it are able to compence: Yet they ever begin with a *Holy Canticum*, *In nomine Patris*: By such Means inducing the People to swallow their gilded Pills, or *Poisons* rather, to the Destruction oftentimes of *Body* and *Soul* too.

In this wicked Thing, called an *Oath*, they blasphemously set up the *Blessed Mary*, *St Michael*, *St John*, *Peter*, *St Paul*, and *Rushon* the Priest, in an equal Classis with God Almighty; but mention not *Christ* till they come to declare the *Pope* to be his *Vicar*; and that thereby the *Pope* hath *Letters Patents* to impower him to do what he shall think fit, in *Heaven*, *Hell*, *Earth*, and in *Purgatory*: to depose and kill *Heretick Kings*, yea, and *Catholick Ones* too, when he wants opportunity to
advance

advance a *Harlot*, a *Bastard*, or a *Nephew*. In such Cases a *Castle*, a *Clement*, a *Ravaillac*, or a *Pickering*, are ever ready to transmit whom he pleases into another World, whilst himself, without such Help, *but not without Money*, puts a *Soul* into *Heaven*, or pulls one out of *Purgatory*.

Indeed this Oath is it's own *Herald*, it is it's own *Comment*; every Word of it is *Rebellion*, *Treason*, and *Murder*, stiled hypocritically *pious* and *holy* Designs; it was stamp't in the Mint of the *Jesuits*, and is a very notable *Comment* upon that Oath which *Blessed Ignatius Loyola* imposed upon his spiritual *Mamaluks*, and may give us to understand that *Romish Wickedness* is sublimated since those Days into a much higher Spirit of Treachery and Impiety. The Oath, then made to the *Father-General* is as followeth.

Ego N. professionem facio, & promitto Omnipotenti Deo, coram ejus Virgine Matre, & universâ cælesti Curiâ, ac omnibus circumstantibus: & Tibi Patri Reverendo N. Præposito Generali *Societatis Jesu*, Locum Dei tenenti, & Successoribus tuis; vel Tibi reverendo Patri, Vice Præposito Generali *Societatis Jesu*, & Successoribus tuis, Locum Dei tenenti, perpetuam Paupertatem, Castitatem, & Obedientiam, & secundum eas peculiarem Curam circa puerorum Eruditionem juxta formam vivendi in Litteris Apostolicis *Societatis Jesu*, & in ejus Constitutionibus contentam; insuper promitto specialem Obedientiam *Summo Pontifici* circa Missiones prout in eisdem Litteris Apostolicis, & Constitutionibus continetur.

In English thus,

I N. make my Profession, and Promise to the Omnipotent God, before his Virgin Mother, and all the whole Court of Heaven, and All
that

that here stand by, and to you our Reverend Father, the Father-General of the Society of Jesus, God's Lieutenant; and to your Successors; (or to you Reverend Father in place of the General of the Society of Jesus, God's Lieutenant, and his Successors,) perpetual Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience; and accordingly peculiar Care in the Erudition of Youth, consentaneous to the Form of Living contained in the Apostolical Letters of the Society of Jesus, and in the Constitutions thereof. Moreover I promise special Obedience to the Pope concerning Missions, as contained in the same Apostolick Letters, and Constitutions.

Our new Explanation, or Exposition, far exceeds the old Text, and is a Superstructure upon that pristine Foundation of *Villainy*, erected since those Times. The *Blessed Trinity*, the *Holy Sacrament*, and the whole Host of Heaven, are made *stalking Horses* for impious Mortals in the ungodly, uncharitable, *Anti-christian* Works of ruining *Kings, Kingdoms, and all Mankind*, besides themselves, only to set up the Court of *Rome*, and a *despatick Power*. These horrid Impieties (but that we are promised *the Gates of Hell shall not prevail*) might make conscientious Men presage and dread that the Ruin of *Christianity* is not far off. These Men, when they swear their misled *Profelytes* into *Treasons, Murders, Felonies, and Secrecy*, little mind what is taught in holy Writ concerning an Oath; *And thou shalt swear, the Lord liveth in Truth, in Judgment, and in Righteousness, &c.* Jer. iv. 2. What Regard these Oaths have to Truth, Judgment, and Righteousness, let the Reader take Notice, and proceed to observe one unparalleled Clause in the Oath, viz. *And that no Hopes of Reward, Threats, or Punishments, shall make me discover the rest concerned in so pious a Work;*

Work; and if discovered shall never confess any Accessories with myself concerned in this Design.

Here they lead their *Profelytes* into a Labyrinth of Wickedness; but then they leave them no Way to disengage themselves or others out of it, and consequently to be *banged*, and *damned* afterwards. This may learn the most wilful and obstinate *Charity*, to have a Care how it extends itself in believing the Words of the late dying *Jesuits*, and *others*. *Dicite Justitiam Moniti*. And let it teach all good *Protestants* the Nature of those *Romish Wolves*, who, though they change their Hair, will never change their Heart.

Our Author having given an Account of the *Oath of Secrecy*, says, Next I will render you an Account how the *Jesuits* and *Popish Priests* insinuate themselves into the Hearts of those they ensnare to engage in any damnable Design: Which being particularly exemplified in *myself*, may serve as Instructions how others were induced and encouraged to propagate their *hellish Principles*.—

The Relation is as follows :

About the latter end of *January 1676*, *Thomas Thwing* a Priest, and *William Rushton* another *Popish Priest*, who was my *Ghostly Father*, came to my House at *Shippon-Hall* in *Yorkshire*, and did there examine me how I stood affected, and did like the *Romish Religion*, since I was of it; and, if there was any Occasion, what I would do for the Good of that Religion? To whom I replied, *That I was so well affected to the Romish Religion, that I would venture my Life and Estate in the managing any Design whatsoever for the Good of that Religion*. The Priests then said, *They were glad to bear me in so good a Humour*; and did heartily wish all the *Catholicks* in *England* were of my Mind; and farther did tell me, that all *England*

in a little time would be Roman-Catholicks; for that the Duke of York, next Heir to the Crown, had renounced the Protestant Religion. Therefore Force was to be used for the more speedy bringing him to the Crown. But added, that before I could be any farther acquainted with the Particulars of this Design, I must first take the afore-mentioned Oath of Secrecy, which all good Catholicks must take: For if any Catholicks did refuse it, they could not be admitted to know of their Designs and Contrivances. For that Sir Thomas Gascoigne, Thomas Gascoigne, Esq; and other Gentlemen, had taken the same, and engaged themselves, and given Security for their respective Performances. Then I told the said Priests, I would not deny to take it, for I would obey my Ghostly Father in all Things. And on Candlemas-day 1676, I did accordingly go to Barmbow-Hall, as was formerly agreed, where I did hear Mass, and took the Oath of Secrecy from the Hands of my Ghostly Father, to be private and keep secret the Design of killing his Sacred Majesty, and the Destruction of all such Protestants as would not be of the Romish Religion; which Oath of Secrecy is before related, and is a true Copy of the said Oath, as I got it from the said Rushton accidentally, the very same Day it was ministred to me by him.—Before I took the Oath of Secrecy I did go to Confession, where my Ghostly Father in my said Confession did tell me, that I must believe that it was a mortal Sin to reveal what was told me by my Ghostly Father in my Confession, and that I was certainly damned if ever I did discover the Concerns of this Design, or taking the said Oath of Secrecy.

But after I had taken the said Oath of Secrecy, and was acquainted with the Design; whenever I went to Confession my Ghostly Father would be sure

to examine me, *how I had kept my Oath*: Upon which if my *Father Confessor* did judge that I had not so truly kept the same, as I ought to have done, then must I have taken the same *Oath* over again. Besides, my *Ghostly Father* did frequently teach me how to make Use of *Equivocations*, and *Mental Reservations*.—*First*, How to defend myself against the *Protestants*; If I was asked by a Stranger whether Mr *Rushton* was a *Priest*, that then I might lawfully deny it, or upon *Oath* before a Magistrate I might positively deny my Knowledge of *Rushton* to be a *Popish Priest*: But then I must privately to myself make Use of this *Equivocation*, that I did not see the said *Rushton* take his Orders beyond Sea; therefore could not swear him to be a *Priest*. And then followed the Benefit of *Absolution* for this, or any other Service done for the Good of the *Romish Religion*. And indeed my Penance in Confession was once enjoined me by Father *Rushton* to lash myself with a *Cat-of-nine-tails*, or *Discipline*, because I did not deny with *Asseverations* to one Mr *Burman* that he was a *Popish Priest*; although I did not confess the same to Mr *Burman*, yet he alledged I did it but faintly, and therefore that should be my Penance.

Secondly, If reproached by the *Protestants*, that they of the *Romish Religion* made no Conscience to destroy those that were of contrary Opinions to them. Then, with *Imprecations*, I might lawfully deny the same, only making Use of this *Reservation* to myself, that I must deny any thing that is against the Interest of the Church. Besides, If I should own it to be the Doctrine of the *Romish Church*, that the *Protestants* would beat out my Brains, as was taught me by my *Ghostly Father Rushton*.

Thirdly, That since the Discovery of this *Popish Plot*, if I did at any time hear the *Protestants* discourse, that they of the *Romish Church* did teach the Murthering of *Kings* and *Princes*; and that the *King* was to have been murdered by the *Papists*; that then I must vindicate the *Romish Religion*, arguing, that such Doctrine the *Papists* held not; with Reservation to myself, that *I must not own such a Design, unless effected*: believing that *Protestants*, being *Hereticks*, had no Power to examine me, neither was I obliged to answer directly to the Question.

This is the amazing Light the true *Sons of Rome* are painted in; nor do I think the Picture in any Feature to be *now* unlike the Successors of those artful *Blood-bounds*. I make no doubt but the same *Oath*, or one *tantamount* to it, has been ministered to many, and as willingly received as this was, and for the same Purpose. That the same Shelter is taken under Equivocations and Reservations (as was then) to remove from People's Thoughts the Apprehensions of having their Lives taken away; and what should be a Provision for their Children rapaciously tore from them to support the Cause of *Popery*. *Papists* are never ashamed of any, the most execrable, Means, so that their Ends can be accomplished. The Life of a *Protestant Prince* is with them of no more Value than the Life of a *Fly*, or the most noxious *Insect*, with whom even *Catholick Princes* cannot be secure of Safety.

The Ceremonies, Manner, and Form, of taking the said Oath of Secrecy, are thus described.

At the Chapel-door, says our Author, I did sprinkle myself with Holy Water, and then went
in;

in; where bowing towards the Altar I made the Sign of the Cross, and said, *Sprinkle me with Hyssop, and I shall be cleansed; wash me, and I shall be whiter than Snow.* Then kneeling, I made the Sign of the Cross, and said, *In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.* Amen. After that I said certain Prayers used before Confession, and at the Conclusion made again the Sign of the Cross; which being ended I went into the Vestry, where kneeling, I asked my *Ghostly Father's* Blessing, as Children usually do their Parents. After that I made the Sign of the Cross, and had the Benefit of Confession and Absolution from my Sins. I then went into the Chapel, and said Prayers before receiving the Sacrament.

When Mass was said, he did not communicate with the rest there present, (though the Sacrament was consecrated for him) but after they were gone; then *William Rushton*, his *Ghostly Father*, called him to the Altar, where bowing his Body, and kneeling, he made the Sign of the Cross, then kissed the Mass-book, and laid his Right-hand upon it, and so had the *Oath of Secrecy* given him by his *Ghostly Father* Rushton, repeating it after him. But at these Words, *In Testimony whereof I do receive this most holy and blessed Sacrament*, Rushton put the Sacrament in his Mouth, and said this little *Latin* Prayer—*Corpus Domini nostri Jesu Christi custodiat animam tuam in vitam æternam. Amen.*—Then he kissed the Mass-book again, held in the Priest's Hand; but held his own Hand on the Mass-book all the Time he was taking the Oath aforesaid. After that rising, he bowed his Body in an humble Manner, and so returned to his Place again.

After he had taken the *Oath of Secrecy*, *Rushton* went into the Vestry to say his Prayers on his *Breviary*, but he continued still in the Chapel to say his Prayers used after the taking of the Sacrament. Then *Rushton* his Confessor came forth out of the Vestry, and he followed him as he went towards his Chamber; but Sir *Thomas Gascoigne* hastily calling the said *Rushton*, he laid down his *Breviary* in his Closet, to which was no Door, and is situate near his Chamber; which said *Breviary* our Author taking up, found therein the said *Oath of Secrecy*; of which *Oath* he had a sufficient Time to take a true Copy, and it is the *real Copy* which is before recited. Although, when he took the Copy, he never intended any *Protestant* should have seen it.

The same Day were hallowed for him two Pistols, which were to be made Use of for the Destruction of the *Protestant* Party, if the *Roman Catholick* had prevailed in *England*. There were also Guns, Pistols, and Swords, hallowed for *Thomas Gascoigne*, Esq; and others engaged in the *Popish Plot*. And in the said Month of *February* he had an *Indulgence* or *Pardon* for thirty-thousand Years given him by the said *Rushton* his Ghostly Father, for Encouragement in his Proceedings in being so zealous against his Majesty and Government; and the Penance enjoined him was to say every Day a *Litany* for the Intercession and Conversion of *England*: But if he did twice a Day say the said *Litany*, then should he each Day redeem a Soul out of *Purgatory*. He farther heard his Ghostly Father say, that some *Catholicks* had their *Indulgences* for fifty thousand Years; others a *plenary Indulgence* to encourage them to be firmer to this Design.—Such a *plenary Indulgence* he did see in the Hands of one Mr *Mowbray* about the latter end of *January* 167². The

The Litany of Intercession for England:

Lord have Mercy upon us, & Christ hear us.

Christ have Mercy upon us,

Lord have Mercy upon us, *So Christ bear us.*

O Father of Mercy and God of all Consolation,

Have Mercy on England.

O Son, Redeemer of the World, and of all things
in Heaven and Earth the Pacifier,

Have Mercy on England.

O Holy Ghost, Light of those that err, and of the
Miserable the only Comfort,

Have Mercy on England.

O *Mary*, Mother of God, and Mother of
Mercy,

Holy *Mary*, who hast destroyed all Heresies,

Holy Virgin of Virgins, famous in *England*
for many Miracles,

St *Michael*, Prince of the Church,

St Gabriel, Privy to the Mysteries of God,

St *Raphael*, Faithful Guide of Travellers,

Holy *Angel*, Prince of *England*, *1622*

St *John Baptist*, Master, and Form of Penance,

All Holy *Patriarchs*, and *Prophets*, Friends of
God, and Preachers of Truth,

St Peter, Pastor of Sheep, and Prince of the Apostles,

St. Paul, Doctor of the Gentiles in Truth and Verity,

St *Andrew*, Friend and Lover of the Cross,

All Holy *Apostles* and *Evangelists*, and special

Increasfers of Christianity, Faith, and

Unity,

All Holy *Innocents* slain for Christ,

Pray for England.

St

St Stephen,
 St Lucius King,
 St Alban,
 St Amphibale,
 St Sophias,
 St George,
 St German,
 St Coleman,
 St Kylian,
 St Adrian,
 St Ethelred King,
 St Tancon,
 St Isenger,
 St Edmund King,
 St Edward King,
 St Thomas of Canterbury,
 All Holy Martyrs of
 England, Scotland,
 and Ireland,
 St Fugatius, and Da-
 mianus,
 St Gregory, and Au-
 gustine,
 St Ethelbert King,

Pray for England.

St Patrick and Co-
 lumbe,
 St Petbno, and St
 Cuthbert,
 St Furseus, and St
 Malachy,
 St John and St David,
 St Brandon, and St
 Fiaker,
 St Archibald and St
 Macarius,
 St Marianus, and St
 Alexander,
 St Bennet, St Boni-
 face, and St Bede,
 St Dunstan, St Henry,
 and St Robert,
 St Richard, St Roger,
 and St Hugh,
 St Gilbert, St Lanfrank
 and St Anselme,
 All Holy Bishops,
 and Confessors of
 England, Scotland,
 and Ireland,

Pray for England.

St Helen Queen, St Ursula, and St Agnes,
 St Bridget, St Buryen, and St Tecla,
 St Agatha, St Mechtil, and St Maxentia,
 St Christen, and St Winifred,
 St Ethelred Queen, and St Margaret Queen,
 All Holy Virgins and Martyrs of England,
 Scotland, and Ireland,
 All blessed and holy Saints of all Places,

Pray for England.

Be merciful, Spare England, Good Lord,
 Be merciful, Hear us, O Lord.

From

From all imminent Perils of Sins, and Back-
 slidings,
 From the Spirit of Pride, and Apostacy,
 From the Spirit of Ambition,
 From the Spirit of Rebellion,
 From all Hardness and Blindness of Heart,
 From all Surfeiting and Drunkenness,
 From the Desires and Liberty of the Flesh,
 From Hatred, Contempt, and Neglect of
 sacred Things,
 From Prophaning of Churches, and all Sacri-
 lege,
 From the Tyranny and Cruelty of Hereticks,
 which it now groans under,
 From wicked and pernicious Councils,

Deliver England, O Lord.

*We Sinners, O God of Pity, do beseech thee to
 hear us.*

That thou wouldst direct the *Pope's* Holiness,
 and all *Prelates* to pacify and govern the
Church,
 That thou wouldst be pleased to bring again
 into this Kingdom the antient *Catholick*,
Apostolick, and *Roman* Faith,
 That thou wouldst put into the Hearts of all
Christian Kings, and *Princes*, Unity, Peace,
 and Concord; and that their fervent Zeal
 may be stirred up, to put their helping
 Hands to reduce it to the Obedience of the
See of Rome,
 That thou wouldst comfort and fortify all such
 as suffer Imprisonment, Loss of Goods, or
 other Affliction, for the *Catholick Faith*.
 That neither by Frailty, or Enticement, or
 any Torments thou permit any of us to fall
 from thee,

O Lord, we beseech thee to hear us.

That

That thou wouldst give us perfect Patience in
 our Afflictions, and to make Ghostly Pro-
 fit of all our Miseries,
 That thou wouldst mercifully hasten the Con-
 version of *England, Scotland, and Ireland,*
 from the Infection of *Heresy and Infidelity,*
 That thou wouldst deliver and keep in these
 Times of *Persecution,* the *Pastors* of our
Souls from the Hands of their Enemies,
 That thou wouldst daily augment in them the
 Fire of thy Love, and the Zeal of gaining
Souls,
 That thou wouldst preserve all the *Catholicks*
 of this Land in Holiness of Life, and from
 all manner of *Sin and Scandal,*
 That thou wouldst so adorn us with Holiness
 of *Life and Conversation,* that our Enemies
seeing our good Works, may glorify Thee our
heavenly Father,
 That thou wouldst reduce from *Error and*
Heresy our *Parents, Friends, and Benefactors,*
 whom thou hast so dearly bought with thy
 precious Blood,
 That thou wouldst illuminate the Hearts of
 all *Schismaticks* which live out of the Church,
 to see the grievous Danger of their Estate,
 That thou wouldst mercifully look down
 from Heaven upon the Blood of so many
Martyrs, as have given their Lives to con-
 vert us unto thee,

Jesus Christ, Son of God, and of the Virgin Mary,
We beseech thee to hear us.

Jesus Christ, Saviour and Redeemer of the World,
We beseech thee to hear us.

Lamb of God, that takest away the Sins of the
 World,

Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb

O Lord, we beseech thee to hear us.

Lamb of God, that takest away the Sins of the
World, *Hear us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, that takest away the Sins of the
World, *Have Mercy on us.*

Lord have Mercy	} {	<i>Pater noster, &c.</i>
Christ have Mercy		<i>Et ne nos inducas, &c.</i>
Lord have Mercy		<i>Sed libera nos a malo,</i>

AMEN.

The End of the Litany.

*Some Circumstances relating to the Murder of
Sir Edmundbury Godfrey.*

ABOUT the latter end of *October*, or beginning of *November*, 1678, this Gentleman being at *Leeds Market*, (a Town about four Miles from his Habitation) having finished his particular Business, went to a *Coffee-House* as usual; where among other *News and Reports* heard that one *Sir Edmundbury Godfrey*, a Justice of Peace at *London*, was missing, and that it was suspected and feared that he was murdered, or made away with by the *Papists*. At his return home, he repaired (as he tells us) to *Sir Thomas Gascoigne's House* at *Barmbow*, one quarter of a Mile from his own, there meeting *Thomas Gascoigne, Esq;* told him what *News* he had heard at *Leeds*. Upon which *Mr Gascoigne* took a Letter out of his Pocket directed to himself and shewed it him; the Letter was subscribed *J. Corker*. Herein he acquainted the *Esqs* in Words to this Effect, that *Sir Edmundbury Godfrey* had been a very busy Man, and a great Enemy to the *Catholicks*, therefore they had procured him to be destroyed. Some few Days after the same Thing was confirmed in Print, viz. That he was murdered. Upon this *William Rushton* sent for him to come to *Mass* at *Sir Thomas Gascoigne's*

D

House,

House, and at Confession did charge him to give out, *That he heard that Sir Edmundbury Godfrey, was a melancholy Gentleman, and in a Discontent went into the Fields and there murdered himself with his own Sword.*

... This Method he observed in all Companies as occasion offered, but was contradicted by many ; and by some that it could not be, for that his Neck was broke, which he could not do after he had murdered himself ; nor be capable of doing the other if his Neck was broke before. Being thus run down in his *Assertions*, he acquainted his Ghostly Father *William Rushton* therewith, who said he had received *new Instructions*, which he shewed in Writing, and were to this Effect :

That Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey* was a Gentleman who had often attempted to destroy himself, that he did really hang himself in his own Silk-Girdle in his Chamber at the Bed's-foot, which being discovered, two of his Servants acquainted his Brother therewith, who coming thither contrived his taking down, and the carrying him to the Place where he was found, where they run his Corpse through on purpose to throw it on the *Papists*, thereby to save the Estate to themselves, and from being forfeited to the King ; and that the two Servants had *Fifty Pounds* a Piece given them to keep it private. He also said, that one of them, which was a Maid-Servant, offered to discover this Contrivance to his Majesty, and Council, but was rejected by them. Nevertheless, for all this *Rushton* did own to this very Person, *that he was murdered by the Papists*, but by what Hands he knew not : And, farther, seemed much concerned that it was done, because it would make the Murder of the King more difficult to be performed.

This

This Present, I hope my *Countreymen* will think worth accepting, as it may let them see the *Papists* are not the Men they would be taken to be. Whatever outside Shews they make to screen themselves, and their Sentiments from publick Notice; within they are full of *Rancour* and *Malice*. They have the total Extirpation of *Protestantism* at Heart. Our *Happiness* is their *Misery*: And it is our Interest to continue it so. As their Consultations are for our Destruction; Self-preservation calls upon us narrowly to watch their Motions, that *our Foot be not taken in the Net they have privily bid*. When a Work of this Nature is carrying on, *All* are *Helpers*, though *All* may not be *Agents*. Secret Subscriptions are taken, and *Money* raised to accomplish their Undertakings. Without *this* they can do nothing. Thus it was during the Plot against King *Charles*, and thus we may be certain this Spirit of *Rebellion* is now fomented, and kept on foot. A Specimen of what was done formerly we have given us by the *Gentleman* who communicated the *Bloody Oath of Secrecy*, and which is to this Effect:

By an Order of Council *October 17, 1679*, he was sent down to search the Houses of several *Papists* in *Yorkshire*, *Lancashire*, *Durham*, and *Northumberland*. Searching the Mansion-house of *Richard Sherborn* of *Stony-burst* in *Lancashire*, he found the following Paper in the Chamber of *Edward Cottam* a *Jesuit*, or *Papish Priest*. Now this *Cottam* was by the said *Mr Sherborn* entertained as his domestick Priest, in the room of *Henry Long* mentioned in the said Paper, and who, as the *Papists* gave out, drowned himself (but was rather made away with by the *Romish Party*) as one discontented in Mind, and who they had a Suspicion, would discover that dam-

noble Popish Plot. These, (says he) as I have heard from several understanding *Papists* engaged in the Plot, procured his Death.

The original Copy was wrote in *Latin*, and it was thought convenient so to publish it.

— *Celebrare quis astringetur.*

Postrema, ut evidenter testetur, quod omnes ad hoc Opus pium assentiantur, has Constitutiones propria manu subsignabant.

— Every one shall be bound to celebrate.

Lastly, that it may be evidently testified, that All unanimously assent to this pious Work, with their own Hands they underwrote these Constitutions.

<i>Ricardus Moorus,</i>	<i>Henricus Holden,</i>
<i>Petrus Giffardus,</i>	<i>Georgius Catterell,</i>
<i>Henricus Long,</i>	<i>Joannes Mollyns,</i>
<i>Jacobus Markland,</i>	<i>Joannes Holden,</i>
<i>Ricardus Sallins,</i>	<i>Gulielmus Gerrard,</i>
<i>Marmaduke Dalton,</i>	<i>Edvardus Blackburne,</i>
<i>Rogerus Anderton,</i>	<i>P. Winder,</i>
<i>Thurston Anderton,</i>	<i>Joannes Urmeston,</i>
<i>Edvardus Anderton,</i>	<i>Thomas Hugonis,</i>
<i>Ricardus Barton,</i>	<i>Georgius Brown,</i>
<i>Edvardus Molineux,</i>	<i>Georgius Rich, ai: d: s:</i>
<i>Thomas Eccleston,</i>	<i>onus.</i>
<i>Petrus Goodenus,</i>	

Quando Omnes unanimiter consentierant his Constitutionibus die 28 Februarii 1675. Hi designabantur Superiores;

Rever-

Reverendissimus Dominus

Ricardus Moorus,
D. Joannes Holdenus, } *Thesaurarii.*
D. Joannes Mollyns, }
D. Petrus Giffardus, *Secretarius.*
D. Rogerus Anderton, *Collector pro sex Hundre-*
dis pro Derbiensi. *Collector for six Hundreds*
in Derbyshire.
D. Ricardus Bartanius, *pro Layland.*
D. Tho. Hugonis, *for Amounderness.*
D. Ed. Blackbourne, *for Loynsdale.*
D. Petrus Goodenus, } *for Blackburn Hundreds in*
D. Henricus Long, } *Lancashire.*

Thus have you an Account of the Paper, and in whose Custody it was found: And every impartial Person may consider, for what Purpose so many *Jesuits* and *Priests* made such *Orders* among themselves, and confirmed them by so many *annual Subscriptions*. Most surely the *Orders* of their *Society* needed no such *Confirmations*. So that it must be some *eccentrick Business* called together so many *Priests* and *Jesuits* to cabal in the remote Parts of the *Nation*; and there also to appoint *Collectors* and *Treasurers*, and those not *ordinary Persons*, but such as wore the Title of *most Reverend Lord*; which imports them *Treasurers* of *Contributions*, not of *Alms*. It is evident enough *these Collectors* were appointed for the Collection of considerable Sums (the Fruits of *blind Zeal*, and *deluded Piety*, or the Price of *Indulgences*, and Exemption from *Purgatory*) in order to carry on their *pious Work*, which was hatching in the Year 1675, and long before, for the *more speedy bringing to pass the Destruction* of his *most Sacred Majesty*, and the *Protestant Religion*. And for this particular Purpose *thirty thousand Pounds* were collected in

in the Counties of *York, Lancaster, Northumberland, and Durham*, by the *Priests, and Jesuits*.

These of the *aforenamed Persons, Long, Dalton, Thurston, Anderton, Thomas Eccleston, and Urme-
ston*, were known *Jesuits*, and it is reasonable to be supposed the rest were of the same Stamp.

It is not, I verily believe, to be doubted, but large *Remittances* of Money have been made abroad for the Support of our Enemies by the *Papists* and *Jacobites* that live among us, to furnish them with Materials to work, if possible, our Destruction: And at the same time to prepare their *Friends* here to be ready for their Reception when they should come. It is an undeniable Truth *War* cannot be carried on without Money. Now where should the *Ringleaders* of our present *Rebels* have to pay their *unhappy Followers* if not supplied by these Means, by large Contributions secretly made among the *Popish* Gentry of Estates, and perversely blind *Jacobites*? None else (no not what *France* can spare) can support them. As you have seen such abominable Facts charged upon these Men, Trust not, my Countrymen, to any fine Speeches the *Papists* can make; for they are made with no other View, but to deceive you into Ruin. Shake off all Communication with them. Be steadfast in your Loyalty to King *GEORGE*; with united Strength maintain his Right, and defend his Cause: for by defending him, you will preserve yourselves. Let his *august Family* ever be your darling Care, as you are *Men, Christians, Protestants, and Brit-
ons*.



